

REMARKS

Claim 1 calls for temporarily flattening a sheet, processing said sheet, and securing said sheet to a second sheet while continuing to hold said sheet in a flattened configuration.

Neither of the references teach flattening a sheet. In order to flatten the sheet, it must be initially non-flat and then must be flattened. Nor do either of the references teach temporarily flattening the sheet. Likewise, there is no teaching of processing the temporarily flattened sheet. Nor is there any teaching of securing the sheet to a second sheet while continuing to hold said sheet in the flattened configuration.

Specifically, Aoki has nothing to do with flattening any kind of sheet. Ogura teaches a press, but does not teach flattening the sheet, temporarily flattening the sheet, or any way to process the sheet while temporarily flattened. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested. For the same reason, claim 12 and its dependent claims should be in condition for allowance. This similar analysis leads to the patentability of claim 16 and its dependent claims.

In view of these remarks, reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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